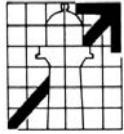

GREATER BILOXI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

1636 POPPS FERRY ROAD, Biloxi, MS 39532 Phone: 228-392-9741 Fax: 228-392-9743



September 12, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

WT 11-65: In the Matter of Applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations

On behalf of the Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation, I am writing in favor of the pending merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. The Foundation is focused on improving the economic climate for Biloxi small businesses, and this merger will facilitate that.

Mississippi is home to more than 230,000 small businesses. These companies make up 96.6 percent of the state's employers and account for nearly 50 percent of the private-sector jobs. In order to survive and grow in a largely rural state, they need access to the same tools and technology that their competitors in more populated states have.

Right now, if you are a business owner in Dallas or Atlanta, chances are you have reliable access to high-speed mobile broadband, if you are an entrepreneur in Biloxi, probably not. However, if the AT&T and T-Mobile merger is successful, that access will become equal. With this merger, AT&T would invest an additional \$8 billion in expanding its 4G wireless network. Those dollars would bring high-speed mobile broadband to more than 97 percent of Americans.

This advanced network would allow our small businesses to market their products and services to customers all over the country and world. The ability to do business from a handheld device while on the go would also make companies more productive, leading to more economic growth and jobs in our area. This is why I urge you to support this merger.

Sincerely,

Stephen Whitt
Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn